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proof spirit *n.* [All alcohol-water mixture of a beverage having a standard amount of alcohol, at the U.S. standard being 100 proof, or 50% ethyl alcohol by volume at 60°F.]
prop¹ (pròp) *n.* [ME *proppre*, prob. of MDu. orig.] 1. A device for supporting something up. 2. A support or stay. — *vt.* **propped, prop-prop²**. To keep from falling; support.
prop² (pròp) *n.* PROPERTY 4.
prop³ (pròp) *n.* Informal. A propeller.
prop⁴ (*pròp*) [*<* PROPIONIC ACID.] Related to or derived from propionic acid *>* **propane** >
pro-pae-deu-tic (prò'pi-dō'tik, -dyō't-) *adj.* [*<* Gk. *prophetein*, to teach beforehand; *pro-*, before + *paideuein*, to teach *>* **catechize**] Providing introductory instruction. — **pro'pae-deu'tic n.**
prop-a-gan-da (pròp'ə-găn'də) *n.* [Ital., short for NLat. *Sacra Congregatio de Propaganda Fide*, Sacred Congregation for Propagating the Faith] 1. Methodical propagation of a particular doctrine or allusions reflecting its views and interests <Communist propaganda>. Material spread abroad by the advocates of a doctrine. 3. **Propaganda**. The Congregation of the Roman Curia with authority in the matter of preaching the gospel and of establishing the Church in non-Christian countries and of administering Church missions in territories without any properly organized hierarchy. — **prop'a-gan-dis'm n.** — **prop'a-gan/dis't n.** — **prop'a-gan-dis/ti-cal-ly adv.**
prop-a-gan-dize (pròp'ə-găn'diz') *v.* -dized, -dizing, -dis-es. — *vt.* 1. To spread (a doctrine or opinion) by propaganda. 2. subject (a person or group of persons) to propaganda. — *vi.* To spread propaganda.
prop-a-gate (pròp'ə-gāt') *v.* -gated, -gating, -gates. [*<* *propagate*, *propagat-* < *propages*, offspring:] — *vt.* 1. To cause (animals or plants) to multiply or breed. 2. To breed (offspring). 3. To lay down (characteristics) from one generation to the next. 4. To make known : PUBLICIZE <*propagate* a canal> 5. *Physics*. To cause (feels or waves) to move through a medium : TRANSMIT. — *vi.* 1. *Physics*. To move through a medium. 2. To breed or multiply. — **prop'a-ga-tion adj.** — **prop'a-ga-tive adj.** — **prop'a-ga'tor n.** (*-ga-bal*)
prop-a-gation (pròp'ə-gä'shan) *n.* Increase or spread, as by natural reproduction. 2. Dissemination, as of a belief. — **prop-a-gation-al adj.**
pro-pane (prò'pan') *n.* A colorless gas, C₃H₈, occurring in natural gas and petroleum and much used as a fuel.
prop-rox-y-tone (prò'pär-òk'sit-òn') *adj.* [Gk. *proparoxutonos*; *pro-*, before + *paroxutonos*, paroxytone. — see PAROXYTONE] Having an acute accent on the antepenult in Classical Greek. — *n.* A paroxytone word. — **prop'ar-ox-y-ton/ic (-tòn'ik) adj.**
prop-el (prä-pél') *vi.* -pelled, -pel-ing, -pels. [*<* ME *propellere*, Lat. *propellere* : *pro-*, forward + *pellere*, to drive.] 1. To cause to move or sustain in motion. 2. To urge on or persuade to do : MOTIVATE <*propelled* by the family into law>
prop-el-lant also pro-pel-lent (prä-pél'/ənt) *n.* 1. Something which produces an explosive charge or a rocket fuel, that propels or supplies thrust. A gas, as a fluorocarbon, that serves as a vehicle for discharging contents of an aerosol container. — *adj.* Serving to propel.
pro-pel-ler also pro-pel-lor (prä-pél'/ər) *n.* A simple machine propelling an aircraft or a boat, esp. one with radiating blades mounted on a revolving power-driven shaft.
pro-pend (prò-pënd') *vi.* -pend-ed, -pend-ing, -pends. [*<* *propendere* : *pro-*, forward + *pendere*, to hang.] To have a propensity toward.
prop-ene (prò'pën') *n.* Propylene.
prop-en-si-ty (prä-pën'si-tē) *n., pl. -ties*. [*<* obs. *propensivus* < Lat. *propensus*, p-part. of *tendere*, to be inclined < PROPEND.] An inherent inclination : TENDENCY.]

portion < Lat. *portio* < *pro portio*ne, for its share.] 1. A part considered in relation to the whole. 2. A relationship between things or parts of things with respect to relative magnitude, quantity, or degree. 3. A relationship between quantities such that if one varies then another varies in a manner dependent on the first: **RATIO**. 4. Harmonious relation. 5. *often proportions*. Size : dimensions. 6. *Math.* A relation of equality between two ratios; e.g., four quantities *a, b, c, d*, are said to be in proportion if $a/b = c/d$. — *vt.* **-tioned, -tion-ing, -tions**. 1. To adjust for attainment of proper relations between parts. 2. To form with proportion. — **pro-portion-a-ble** *adj.* — **pro-portion-a-bly** *adv.* — **pro-portion-er** *n.* — **pro-portion-ment** *n.*

pro-portion-al (prə-pôr'shə-nəl, -pôr'-) *adj.* 1. Being in proportion. 2. Properly related in size or other measurable characteristics. 3. *Math.* Having a constant ratio. — *n.* One of the quantities in a mathematical proportion. — **pro-portion-al'ity** (nāl'ti-tē) *n.* — **pro-portion-al-ly** *adv.*

proportional representation *n.* Representation of all parties in a legislature in proportion to their popular vote.

pro-portion-ate (prə-pôr'shə-nīt, -pôr'-) *adj.* **PROPORTIONAL** — *vt.* (*-nāt'*) **-ated, -ating, -ates**. To make proportionate. — **pro-portion-ate-ly** *adv.* — **pro-portion-ate-ness** *n.*

pro-pos-al (prə-pôz'al) *n.* 1. An act of proposing. 2. A plan or scheme proposed. 3. An offer of marriage.

pro-pose (prə-pôz') *v.* **-posed, -pos-ing, -pos-es**. [*ME. proponere* < *OFr. proponere* < Lat. *proponere* : *pro*, forth + *ponere*, to put.] — *vt.* 1. To put forward for consideration, discussion, or adoption. 2. To nominate or present (a person) for a position, office, or membership. 3. To offer (a toast to be drunk). 4. To purpose : intend. — *vi.* To form or make a proposal, esp. of marriage. — **pro-poser** *n.*

★ **SYN.**: PROPOSE, OFFER, POSE, PROFOUND, PUT FORTH, SUBMIT, SUGGEST *v.* *core meaning* : to advance, as an idea, for consideration <proposed that they take a vacation>

prop-o-si-tion (prôp'ə-zish'ən) *n.* [*ME. propo-sitioun* < *OFr. proposition* < Lat. *propositio* < *proponere*, to set forth. — see **PROPOSE**] 1. **PROPOSAL** 2. *Informal.* A matter requiring special handling <a controversial proposition> 3. *Informal.* An immoral or dubious proposal. 4. A subject for analysis or discussion. 5. *Logic.* a. A statement in which the subject is affirmed or denied by the predicate. b. Something expressed in a statement, as opposed to the way it is expressed. c. A statement containing only logical constants and having a fixed truth-value. — *vi.* **-tioned, -tion-ing, -tions, -tional**. To propose a private bargain to, esp. to make a sexual overture to. — **prop'o-si-tional** *adj.* — **prop'o-si'tion-al-ly** *adv.*

propositional function *n.* *Logic.* An expression having the form of a proposition but containing undefined symbols for the substantive elements, and becoming a proposition when appropriate values are assigned to the symbols.

pro-pro-si-tus (prô-pôz'it-es) *n., pl. -ti* (-tī') [Lat., p.part. of *proponere*, to set forth. — see **PROPOSE**] 1. *Law.* One from whom a line of descent is traced. 2. The person most directly affected by an action.

pro-pound (prə-paund') *vi.* **-pounded, -pound-ing, -pounds**. [*ME. proponen* < Lat. *proponere*, to set forth. — see **PROPOSE**.] To put forward for consideration : SET FORTH. — **pro-pound'er** *n.*

pro-frac-tor (prô-prê'tər) *n.* [Lat. : *pro*, for + *frac-tor*, praetor. — see **PRAE-TOR**] A Roman official appointed, usu. directly after being praetor, to be a chief provincial administrator. — **pro'prae-to'ri-al** (prô'prî-tôr'ē-əl, -tôr'-) *adj.* **pro'prae-to'ri-an** *adj.*

pro-pran-o-lol (prô-prân'ə-lôl', -lôl') *n.* [Alteration of PROPANE + -ol + -ol.] A drug, C₁₆H₂₁NNO₂, for treating angina pectoris and cardiac arrhythmia.

pro-pri-e-tar-y (prə-prî'ti-tēr'ē) *adj.* [[Lat. *propriarius* < Lat. *proprietas*, property < *proprius*, one's own.] 1. Of or relating to a proprietor or to proprietors as a group. 2. Exclusively owned : PRIVATE. 3. Appropriate to an owner <a proprietary demeanor> 4. Owned by a private individual or corporation under a trademark or patent <a proprietary drug> — *n., pl. -ies*. 1. A proprietor. 2. A group of propri-

[illegible]